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SUBJECT: UNHCR/WFP JOINT DONOR BRIEFING

REF: 02 Rome 3566

11. Summary. UNHCR and WFP held a joint donor briefing in Rome on July 22, 2004. UN staff discussed troubling funding problems that limit WFP's ability to deliver food aid to refugees in Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Chad, Eritrea, Georgia, Kenya, Nepal, and elsewhere; provided an update on the WFP/UNHCR pilot MOU regarding WFP direct delivery of food to the end user; and voiced concerns about the security situation in Darfur and Eastern Chad.

Funding Issues in Selected Countries

12. Kamal Morjane, the Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, began his remarks by highlighting the good cooperation enjoyed by UNHCR and WFP, identifying the progress being made in process issues like registration, and above all, stressing the importance of food to refugees. "The best thing you can do is to support WFP, and by supporting WFP, you are supporting refugees. Food is essential for refugees."

13. Critical funding shortages are being experienced by WFP in the following countries:

-- In Algeria, WFP provides assistance to about 155,430 refugees living in desert camps near Tindouf. The US contribution to the PRRO ending in August 2004 is about 15 percent of a planned operation of \$32.3 million, which is experiencing an overall funding shortfall of 35 percent. The new PRRO beginning in September 2004 and planned through August 2006 has received only 6 percent of the planned \$39.5 million and nothing yet from the USG.

-- Angola, of the 90,000 refugees planned for repatriation from Zambia in 2004, only 9,000 have actually been repatriated. The food situation for returning refugees remains difficult. WFP's Angola Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) requires an additional \$58 million to cover needs for all major commodities. The implementation of the return and resettlement operation is seriously jeopardized by the lack of contributions. The assurance of food aid is considered by UNHCR a crucial factor in encouraging further repatriation.

-- The new Armenia PRRO covering the period from July 2004 through June 2006, is planned at \$11.5 million, but has a funding shortfall of 96 percent.

-- WFP has been providing assistance in Bangladesh to Myanmar refugees since 1992. Its new PRRO beginning in January 2004, planned at \$2 million, is experiencing a funding shortfall of about 50 percent.

-- WFP's "Food Assistance to Sudanese Refugees in Northeast Chad" EMOP is funded at about 61 percent of the planned \$30 million.

-- WFP's Democratic Republic of the Congo PRRO is funded at 20 percent of a planned \$160 million. Serious pipeline breaks are affecting the lives of over 1.4 million people, including IDPs and refugees. Food distribution in June was 63 percent of requirements because of pipeline breaks and widespread insecurity.

-- The Djibouti PRRO targets about 43,400 beneficiaries, including refugees. About 57 percent of the planned \$6 million for the operation has been received.

-- The Eritrea PRRO has received only 60 percent of the

project estimate of \$50 million.

-- The Ethiopia PRRO for refugees is estimated at \$41.2 million. Ending the last day in 2004, the PRRO has received about 60 percent of required funding.

-- For its Georgia PRRO, WFP has received 50 percent of the required \$24.7 million.

-- The Great Lakes Cluster PRRO for Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania is operating at 50 percent of the required \$289 million.

-- The Iran PRRO is operating at 50 percent of the required \$14.8 million.

-- The Kenya PRRO for Somali and Sudanese refugees requires \$58.8 million, but has a 65 percent funding shortfall.

-- The Malawi PRRO for a planned \$1.7 million is resourced at 65 percent.

-- The Nepal PRRO, renewed in July 2004, provides for assistance to Bhutanese refugees. About 37 percent of the planned \$7.5 million has been received, and resources are needed to prevent a pipeline break.

-- The Sudan PRRO for assistance to Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees beginning in April 2004 has received confirmed contributions of about \$550,000 of the required \$15.5 million.

-- The Uganda PRRO is resourced at 82 percent of the required \$204 million.

-- The West Africa Bureau EMOP, which provides assistance to people affected by the Cote d'Ivoire crisis, is resourced at 72 percent of the \$38.8 million required.

-- The West Africa Cluster, which assists IDPs and refugees in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, is resourced at 48 percent of the \$81.6 million required.

-- In Yemen, WFP's Food Assistance to Refugees PRRO faces pipeline breaks of rice, sugar, and wheat soya blend, mostly because of shipment delays. About 40 percent of the planned 11,000 refugees have moved to other regions in Yemen or left the country. Important changes in distribution modalities ensure that only the most food insecure people receive food rations.

-- The Zambia PRRO provides food assistance for refugees from Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is resourced at 35 percent of the \$22.7 million required.

Progress Report on Pilots for Direct WFP Delivery of Food to the End Users

14. Per reftel, WFP's Pakistan Emergency Operation (EMOP), Assistance to Afghan Refugees, is one of the five pilot test projects described in a July 2002 MOU between WFP and UNHCR in which WFP assumes full responsibility for the final distribution of the basic food ration to refugees. A joint evaluation team is presently in Pakistan looking at the effectiveness of this pilot operation.

15. Resourced at 67 percent of the estimated \$35 million, the Pakistan EMOP runs through December 2004. Both agencies agree in general that the pilot test has gone well; however, neither indicated when the evaluation of the pilot activities as contemplated in the MOU might be provided. US Mission Rome Humanitarian Assistance Attache intervened to urge that WFP and UNHCR continue to move swiftly with its final report.

Darfur/Eastern Chad Security Concerns

16. Security remains a major concern in Eastern Chad and

Darfur refugee camps. Conditions in overcrowded camps have resulted in recent violence at the Chadian Farchana and Breidjing refugee camps, and some humanitarian assistance has had to be halted. WFP's Senior Deputy Executive Director speculated that, as the jengaweed militia is reined in across the border, they are likely to foray into eastern Chad and exacerbate the security situation. Accordingly, WFP and UNHCR are negotiating with the Government of Chad to field more security personnel in and around refugee camps in Chad.

Comment

17. There is good synergy between UNHCR and WFP. In USUN Rome's view, they have recognized that they truly need one another. UNHCR commented that the continuing funding difficulties are leading to a slow but steady erosion of minimum standards, including protection, all over Africa. This stark realization makes better and deeper partnerships imperative.

18. Kabul and Khartoum minimize considered. Hall

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